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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**RECENT SLBM DEVELOPMENTS,
HSIAO-PING-TAO SUBMARINE BASE,
CHINA**

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**NOVEMBER 1973
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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME		COUNTRY
Recent SLBM Developments, Hsiao-ping-tao Submarine Base		CH
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	
NA	38-49-04N 121-29-31E	
MAP REFERENCE		

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15thRTS. USATC, Series 200, Sheet M0381-9HL, scale 1:200,000

LATEST IMAGERY USED	NEGATION DATE (if required)

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ABSTRACT

1. This report describes and graphically depicts the probable SLBM container, the possible missile transporter, the suspect ballast cylinder, and associated equipment which were recently identified at Hsiao-ping-tao Submarine Base. This equipment provides some indication of the size of the SLBM under development and suggests that underwater testing is underway or may take place in the near future.

2. This report is based on photography [redacted] and contains a location map, photographs, a line drawing, and a perspective drawing.

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INTRODUCTION

3. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is developing a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). The G SSB, which has a probable underwater launch capability, will probably be used or may have been used as a test platform for the PRC SLBM program [redacted] the G SSB was observed at Hsiao-ping-tao Submarine Base (Figure 1) along with two indigenous ballistic missile tubes/liners. One ballistic missile tube/liner (5 feet in diameter;¹ length undetermined) was in the number 3 launch position, and the second tube/liner, [redacted] was on the quay near the submarine.

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4. Photography indicates that pop-up testing of dummy missiles took place at the Chin-hsi SSM R&D Test Complex [redacted] from 1969 to late 1970. The dummy missile associated with the Chin-hsi facility [redacted]

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

5. A probable SLBM container, an associated possible missile transporter, and a suspect ballast cylinder were newly identified at Hsiao-ping-tao Submarine Base [redacted]

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All three objects were on the quay near the G SSB (Figure 2). A large floating crane, a mobile jib crane, two van trucks, one van, and a low-boy trailer were also present. This equipment was not present

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6. The possible missile transporter, is of light-to-medium frame construction (Figure 3). It probably has dual rear axles and a single, possibly steerable front axle. This type of transporter had not been previously identified in China.

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FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF HSIAO-PING-TAO SUBMARINE BASE, CHINA

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7. The suspect ballast cylinder is light toned, measures [redacted] and is similar in size to the dummy SLBM missiles [redacted] observed at Chin-hsi SSM R&D Test Complex since 1969.

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8. The probable SLBM container, [redacted] was on a dolly on the rail line which extends from the high-bay missile-related building to the quay (see Figure 4). The dimensions of the container are compatible with those of the missile tube/liner [redacted] observed at Hsiao-ping-tao in September 1972.

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9. The probable SLBM container is similar in shape and probably functions like the container used to transport, store, and load Polaris and Poseidon missiles in the United States. An SLBM container provides the structural support for the airframe during the transloading, lifting, and loading of the missile into the submarine. A container would be essential for the loading of a solid propellant missile because of the delicate nature of the airframe and the instability of the floating submarine. It would not be essential for a liquid propellant missile; however, it could be desirable.

10. The loading procedure is probably as follows (Figure 5): The container is lifted from the dolly by a large floating crane and set down on the upper lip of the missile tube in the submarine. It is bolted/attached to the tube so that it becomes an extension of the missile tube. The missile is lowered into the tube, probably with a self-contained electrical winch from which the missile is suspended in the container. The container is then removed.

11. The identification of the probable SLBM container, the possible missile transporter, and the suspect ballast cylinder near the G SSB indicates that SLBM testing is continuing and that underwater testing is probably underway or may take place in the near future.

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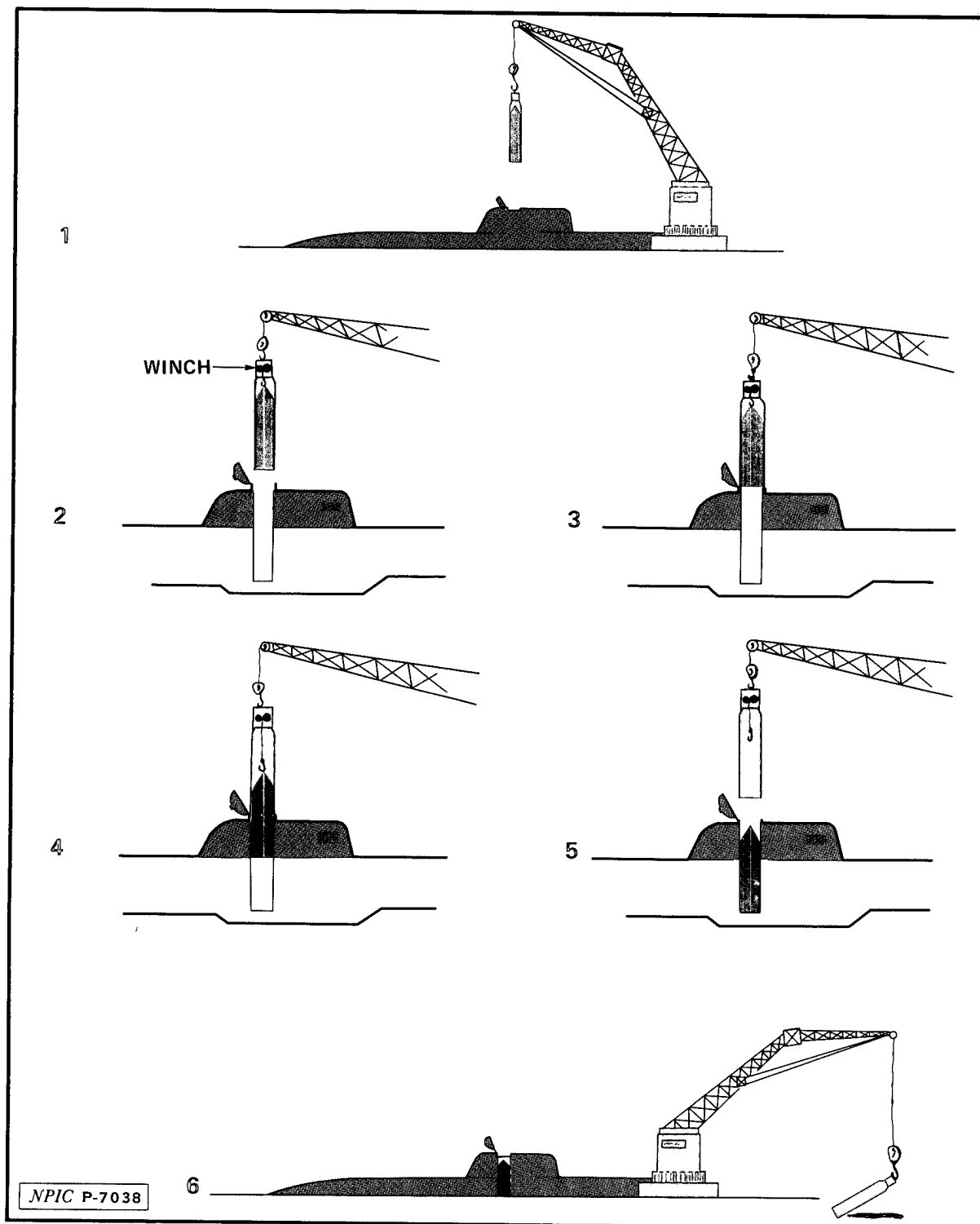


FIGURE 5. PROBABLE CHINESE SLBM LOADING PROCEDURE

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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

15thRTS. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet M0381-9HL, scale 1:200,000

REQUIREMENT

Project 143401NA

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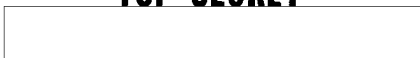
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